

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 INSE-00 L-03 H-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: OAS SEC GEN DISCUSSIONS WITH LABOR
SECRETARY

1. OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ALEJANDRO ORFILA, DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO MEXICO, ON SEPTEMBER 5 MET WITH SECRETARY OF LABOR PORFIRIO MUNOZ-LEDO. DURING THE CONVERSATION, AS REPORTED BY SEMI-OFFICIAL NACIONAL, THE QUESTION OF "INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION" AROSE AS WELL AS THE RELEVANCE OF THIS SUBJECT TO OAS ACTIVITIES. ORFILA IS QUOTED AS NOTING THAT THE AMERICAN CONTINENT IS "TRADITIONALLY ONE OF MIGRATION." THIS FACT, HE THOUGHT, EXPLAINED WHY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE PROPOSED "THE MOST ADVANCED THESES" ON MIGRATORY THEMES

AS, FOR EXAMPLE, "THE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MANNER OF ENTRY OF WORKERS INTO A FOREIGN COUNTRY AND THE JURIDICAL STATUS WHICH ARISES WITH RESPECT TO THE WORK IN WHICH THEY ENGAGE."

2. ORFILA FURTHER COMMENTED THAT THE NOTION OF "UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANT WORKERS" IS AN IMPORTANT CONCEPT FOR THE UNDERSTANDING AND ADEQUATE TREATMENT OF SUCH WORKERS. THE OAS, HE REPORTEDLY SAID, HAS BEFORE IT THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING TO EXPLORE AND SOLIDIFY
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SUCH IDEAS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD.

3. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, MEXICO HAS BEEN MOST ACTIVE IN DEVELOPING THE "NOTION" DESCRIBED ABOVE IN VARIOUS FORA, INCLUDING THE UN AND THE ILO. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SOME SUCH CONCEPT, I.E. A SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN "LABOR RIGHTS" AND IMMIGRATION STATUS OF MEXICAN WORKERS ILLEGALLY IN THE U.S. MAY PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE FORMULATION OF MEXICAN POSITIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE NATIONAL COMMISSIONS ON ILLEGALS. CALDERHEAD

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